

Urban District Council of Oswaldtwistle.



Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER,

ALSO

Report upon Sanitation by the Sanitary Inspector,

AND

Report on Infant Welfare Work by the Lady
Health Visitor, for the

DISTRICT of OSWALDTWISTLE

For Year ended 31st December, 1918.

Oswaldtwistle :

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1919.



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HEALTH COMMITTEE,

From April, 1918, to April, 1919.

—:O:—

Councillor T. W. WALTON, Chairman.

„ H. DUERDEN.

„ E. GIBSON.

„ F. GREENWOOD.

„ D. B. LEIGH.

„ J. MASON.

„ J. RILEY.

„ A. TAYLOR.

Meetings: First Thursday after first Monday in each month,
at 2-30 p.m.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health: ALFRED E. TOWNLEY, M.B., Ch.B.,
D.P.H. (Manchester).

Fellow of the Royal Institute of Public Health.

Member of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Sanitary Inspector: - ARTHUR ASHWORTH, C.R.S.I.

Lady Health Visitor: Mrs. F. M. McKENDRY, C.M.B.,
Cert. R.I.P.H.

Disinfector: - - J. H. CLEGG.

Caretaker of Smallpox Hospital: - Mrs. FINLAY.

Foreman of Scavenging Department: - R. CARLEY.

Caretaker of Slaughterhouses: WM. WILSON.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District
Council of Oswaldtwistle.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my 15TH ANNUAL REPORT on the Health and Sanitary condition and administration of Oswaldtwistle, for the year ending December 31st, 1918.

Owing to the number of men who have left Oswaldtwistle, either to join H.M. Forces or to work in munition factories in other districts, it has been impossible for me to estimate the population of the Township in the usual way by taking the last census as a basis, and accordingly in order to arrive at some approximate figure from which to work out the various statistics, the Registrar General has supplied figures as follows: estimated population for calculating death rate 13,207, for birth rate 14,798. It must be borne in mind that these figures and the rates dependent upon them refer only to the **civil** population, and no account whatever is taken of deaths occurring amongst men from the district who have joined H.M. Forces, **all** of which have been excluded from this report.

It will be seen from the figures and diagram which follow that the birth rate for the year is exceedingly low, the lowest in fact of which I have any record, with the exception of year 1917, while the death rate shews a considerable increase over the previous 13 years, and is in fact higher than the birth rate, a condition without precedent in the Township, so far as my knowledge goes.

The infantile death rate shews an increase on the two preceding years, and I regret to say does not compare favourably with the figures for England and Wales, London, or the Towns as set out on page 9 of this report.

The epidemic death rate shews an increase over the previous

seven years, and is accounted for by the widespread outbreak of measles and whooping cough which occurred during the year, these diseases being responsible for 60 % of the deaths from the seven principal zymotic diseases.

The incidence of scarlet fever has again been remarkably low.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council, the Clerk, the Accountant, the Surveyor, the Sanitary Inspector, and other officials of the Council, I am indebted for much kind assistance during the year in the carrying out of my work.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALFRED E. TOWNLEY,

May 20th, 1919.

Medical Officer of Health.



Area 4885 acres, 23 of which are water.

Population. The census taken in April, 1911, shewed the population to be 15,714. For the purposes of this report the death rates are calculated on an estimated population of 13,207, and the birth rate on an estimated population of 14,798.

Rainfall. I am obliged to Mr. Hunter, the Surveyor, for the following figures shewing the rainfall for each month during the year :

Rainfall from January 1st, to December 31st, 1918.

		Inches.
January	...	4.56
February	...	6.38
March	...	2.28
April	...	1.93
May	...	2.40
June	...	2.43
July	...	4.35
August	...	4.49
September	...	17.92
October	...	6.29
November	...	4.63
December	...	13.25
		70.91

The past year had the heaviest rainfall of any year of which I have details. September was the wettest month of which I have record, and the lowest rainfall was in Feby., 1895, viz : .31 inches.

Rainfall in 1917: 53.54 inches. Average rainfall for 10 years—1908-1917: 56.69 inches.

Births. 235 births occurred during the year as follows :—

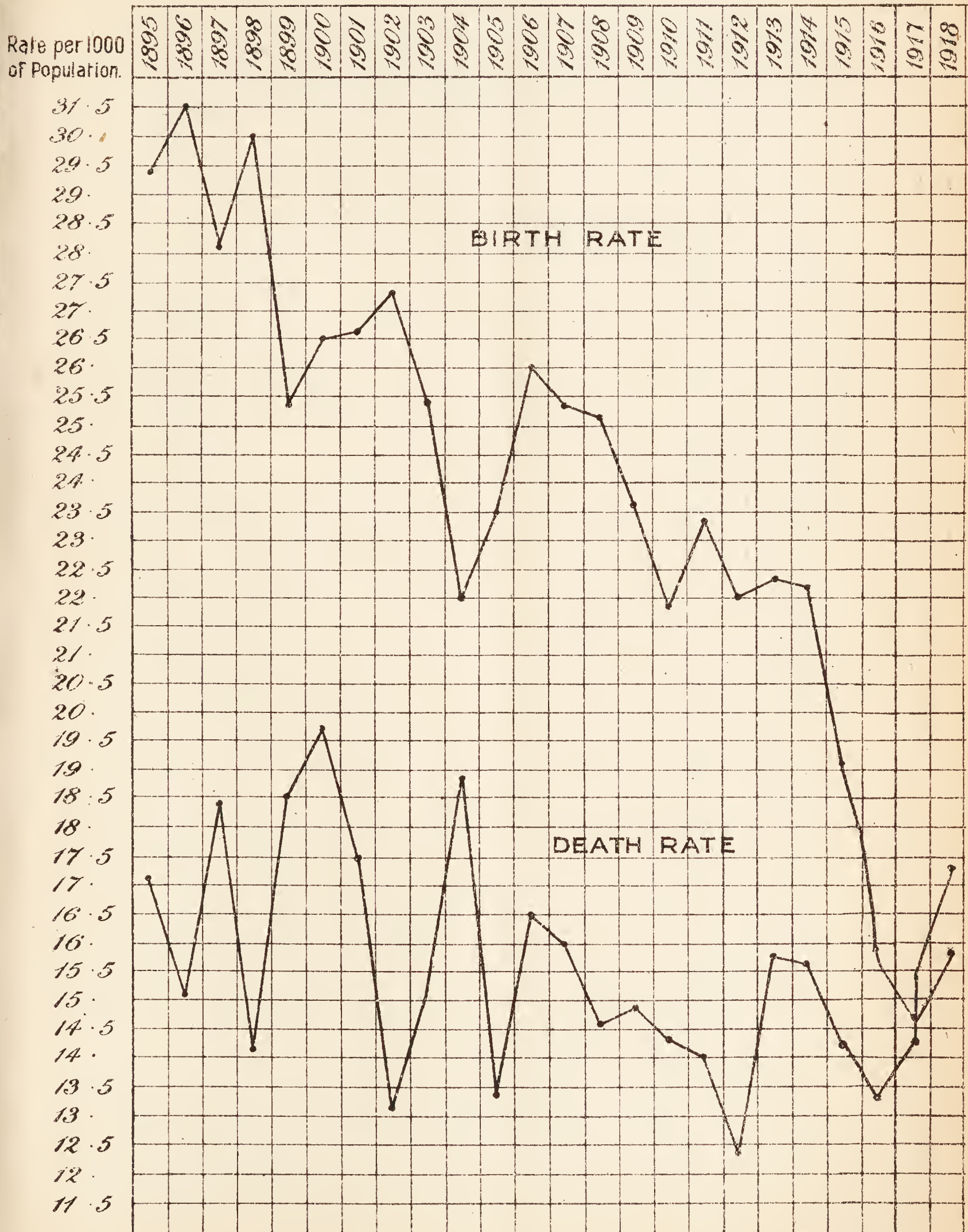
	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	110	112	222
Illegitimate	8	5	13
	118	117	135

The birth rate on an estimated population of 14,798 is 15.8 per 1000, compared with 221 births and a birth rate of 14.63 in the previous year.

The average rate for the 10 years—1908-1917 is 20.9.

The number of notifications received under the Notification of Birth Acts was 218. 24 births were not notified.

Chart showing Birth-rate and Death-rate for years
1895-1918 inclusive.



Deaths. The deaths (civilians only) number 231 (119 males & 112 females), giving an annual death rate, calculated on a population of 13,546, of 17.4 per 1000, as against 194 deaths and a death rate of 14.32 in the previous year, and an average of 14.3 per 1000 for the 10 years—1909-1917.

Table shewing causes of Death during 1918.

Causes of Death (Civilians only)		Males	Females	Total
ALL CAUSES	...	119	112	231
1	Enteric Fever	1	0	1
2	Smallpox	0	0	0
3	Measles	7	1	8
4	Scarlet Fever	0	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	3	3	6
6	Diphtheria and Croup	3	2	5
7	Influenza	7	14	21
8	Erysipelas	0	0	0
9	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	8	9	17
10	Tuberculous Meningitis	0	0	0
11	Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	0	1
12	Cancer, Malignant Disease	8	8	16
13	Rheumatic Fever	0	0	0
14	Meningitis	2	0	2
15	Organic Heart Disease	10	11	21
16	Bronchitis	14	14	28
17	Pneumonia (all forms)	10	10	20
18	Other Respiratory Diseases	5	0	5
19	Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	0	0	0
20	Appendicitis & Typhilitis	0	0	0
21	Cirrhosis of Liver	1	0	1
21a	Alcoholism	0	0	0
22	Nephritis & Bright's Disease	2	3	5
23	Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
24	Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever	0	1	1
25	Congenital Debility, &c.	5	7	12
26	Violence, apart from suicide	4	1	5
27	Suicide	0	0	0
28	Other defined Diseases	27	27	54
29	Causes ill-defined or unknown	1	1	2

Deaths of children under 1 year of age :—

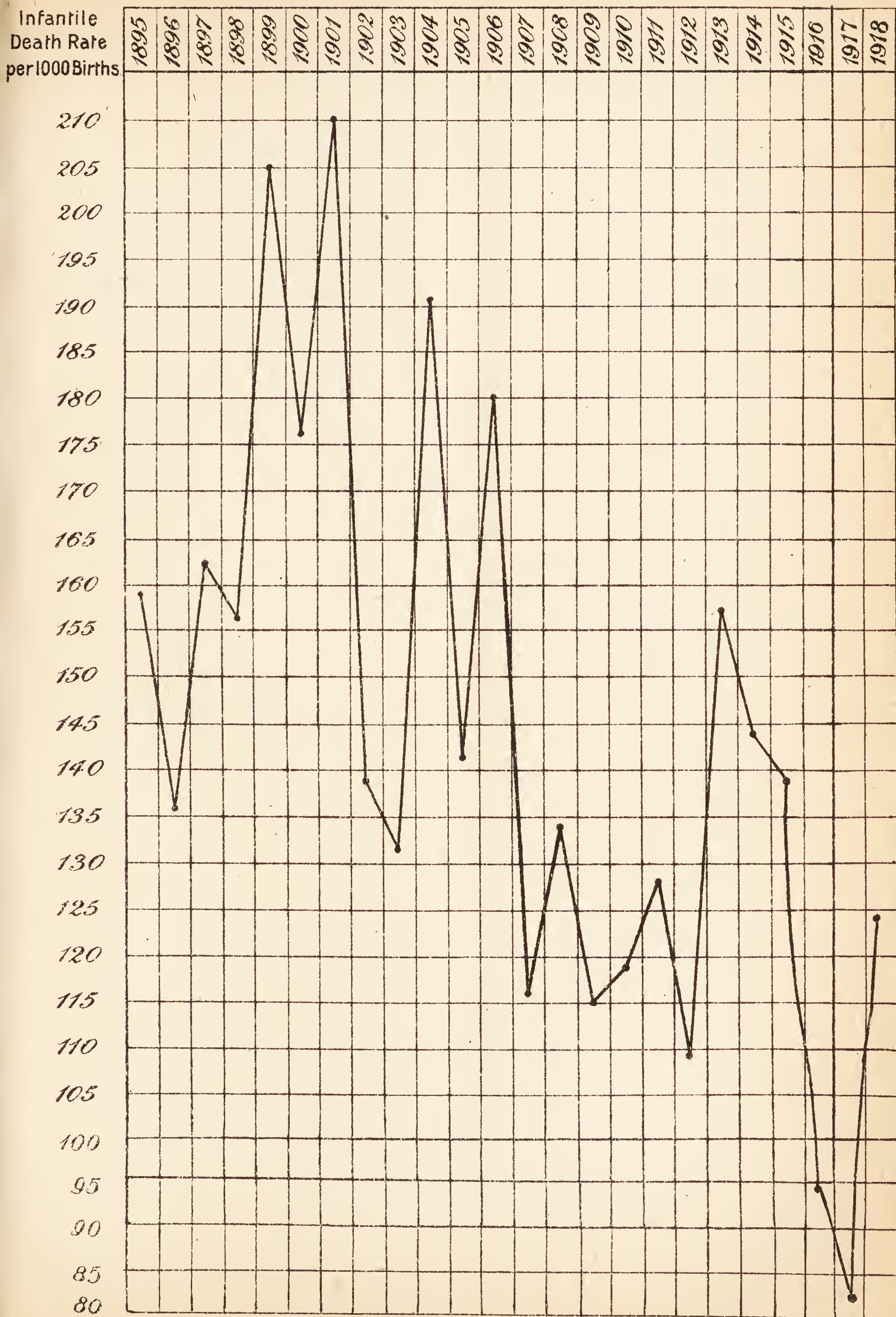
Legitimate	...	15	11	26
Illegitimate	...	2	1	3

Infantile Death Rate. 29 deaths occurred in children under one year of age, representing for the year 123 deaths per 1000 births, compared with 18 deaths and a mortality of 81 in the previous year, and an average of 121 for the ten years—1908-1917.

Other Death Rates.

	No. of Deaths	Death Rate	Previous year	Average previous 10 years
Diseases of the Respiratory Organs, excluding Phthisis)	53	3.9	3.02	2.70
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	17	1.28	1.25	0.68
Other forms of „	1	0.07	0.29	0.24
Total Tubercular Diseases	18	1.35	1.55	0.92
Cancer ...	16	1.2	0.81	1.03
Zymotic Death Rate	20	1.51	0.73	1.10

Diagram showing the Infantile Death-rate per 1,000 Births during the years 1895-1918 inclusive.



Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1918.

(Provisional figures. Populations estimated to the middle of 1918 have been used for the purposes of this Table.)

	Birth Rate per 1000 Total Population	ANNUAL DEATH RATE PER 1000 CIVILIAN POPULATION.									RATE PER 1000 BIRTHS.		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS. *			
		All Causes	Enteric Fever	Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years).	Total Deaths under One year.	Deaths in Public Inst's	Certified Causes	Inquest Cases	Uncertified Causes of Death	
England & Wales ...	17.7	17.6	0.03	0.00	0.28	0.03	0.29	0.14	0.49	10.99	97	24.3	93.3	5.4	1.3	
96 Great Towns, including London (Census populations exceeding 50,000)	17.6	18.2	0.02	0.00	0.36	0.04	0.34	0.15	0.49	14.46	106	28.4	93.4	5.8	0.8	
148 Smaller Towns (Census populations 20,000—50,000) ...	17.9	16.1	0.03	—	0.25	0.02	0.25	0.14	0.38	9.73	94	15.4	94.5	3.9	1.6	
London ...	16.1	18.9	0.02	—	0.42	0.03	0.43	0.17	0.56	15.67	107	45.0	92.5	7.3	0.2	
Oswaldtwistle ...	15.8	17.4	0.07	0.00	0.56	0.00	0.42	0.35	0.35	0.00	123	10.0	91.7	6.9	1.3	

* Non-civilians are included in these figures for England and Wales but not for other areas.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1918.

Notifiable Disease	Number of cases notified—At Ages—Years.										Total cases notified in each Ward of the District.					Total cases removed to Hospital
	At all ages	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and up-wards	Immanuel Ward	Saint Paul's Ward	Foxhill Bank Ward	Saint Oswald's Ward	Saint Mich'l's Ward			
Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup	12	1	4	4	2	1	0	0	1	1	6	4	0			0
Erysipelas	6	0	0	0	0	3	2	1	2	1	3	0	0			0
Scarlet Fever	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0		10	0
Enteric Fever	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0			0
Ophthal. Neonatorum	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	0			0
Pulmon. Tuberculosis	17	0	0	3	4	8	2	0	4	2	5	4	2			5
Other forms of Tuberculosis	4	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	1			0
Measles	255	23	159	72	1	0	0	0	61	80	71	42	1			0
Totals	304	30	164	83	7	14	5	1	70	87	92	51	4			5



The following Diagram shows the Annual Death-rate from Tuberculosis for the years 1901-18 inclusive.

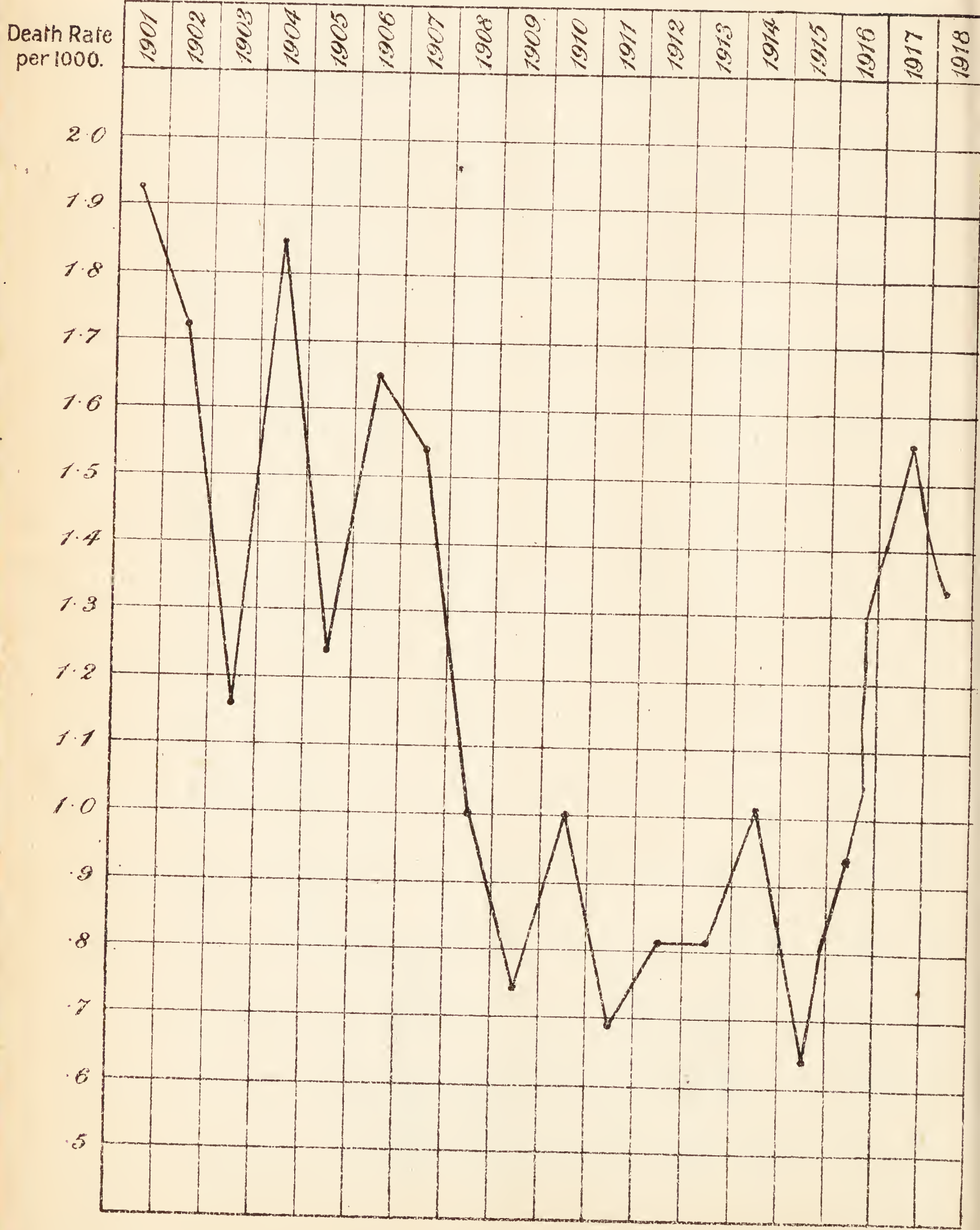


**Table of Zymotic Death Rate for the last
Ten Years.**

Year	Deaths per 1000	Year	Deaths per 1000
1909	... 0.93	1914	... 1.41
1910	... 2.04	1915	... 0.96
1911	... 1.84	1916	... 0.74
1912	... 1.00	1917	... 0.73
1913	... 1.37	1918	... 1.51

Phthisis & other Tubercular Diseases. Under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1912, the total number of notifications received was **33**, as follows:—

21 were on Form A—primary notifications.

0 „ B— „ „ (Schools).

5 „ C—admissions to sanatoria.

6 „ D—discharges from sanatoria.

One was a notification of removal from another district.

Infectious Diseases. Measles was prevalent during the greater part of the year, and 255 cases were notified with eight deaths. Whooping cough accounted for six deaths, enteric fever for one; and diphtheria for five. Scarlet fever has again been markedly absent. No schools were closed during the year for infectious diseases, exclusion of certain scholars only being practised.

Bacteriological Examination.

No. of samples of sputum examined	...	10
„ „ water „	...	1

Influenza. Two extensive epidemics of influenza occurred during the year, the first in July and the second in November. 7 deaths were registered as due to influenza in the July outbreak, and 15 in the latter wave. A large number of children were away from school during the outbreaks, and pressure was brought to bear on me to close the schools, this however I did not carry out, since I could not see that by so doing the epidemic would be mitigated. The disease not being a purely children's ailment, as in the case of measles and whooping cough, parents were attacked as well as children, and in my experience suffered much more severely and in greater proportion, and I was convinced that the mere closing of schools, unless workshops, factories, cinemas, and places of worship were also closed, would not tend to stay the epidemic. The latter procedure being of course out of the question, I could not fall in with the idea of closing the schools, and left the Education Authority to do so if they cared.

That my action was justified is, I think, borne out by the fact that not a single death from influenza was registered of any child of school age.

Handbills were distributed giving instructions as to how best to prevent attack, and procedure in case of attack. Posters were also displayed containing the same information, and disinfection of public places was carried out.

House Accommodation. No undue shortage of houses was observed during the period of the war, but latterly since demobilisation commenced there has been some slight deficiency noticed, though it cannot be said that overcrowding exists to any appreciable extent. During the period of the war, building

was entirely suspended, and it is possible that until the erection of cottage property is recommenced some shortage may occur in the future, and the matter is receiving the consideration of the Council.

Water Supply. Town's water has now been laid along Fern Gore Road to supply the farms and cottages adjoining, the previous supply (as mentioned in my report of last year,) having been found to be polluted.

The drift at White Syke was completed in the month of May, and 252,000 gallons of water is being delivered per week to the reservoirs to augment the supply.

The supply is of good quality, and has been ample during the year. The sand washer which has been installed at the filters has proved very efficient.

Sewerage. The treatment of sewage at the Belthorn and Aspen Works is quite efficient and the effluent satisfactory. The Knuzden Sewage scheme has been suspended owing to the war.

Maternity and Infant Welfare. Continued progress is being made at the Centre, which during the year had to be moved to the Conservative Club, owing to the premises previously occupied being taken over for other purposes, due to war conditions. Now that peace is within sight, new premises are being secured of a permanent character and more suitably adapted for the work.

The arrangements made with St. Mary's Hospital for Women and Children, Manchester, still hold good, but I think the Council should in addition make arrangements with a Hospital nearer this district for the treatment of minor surgical ailments in women and children, since for such operations as circumcision, removal of tonsils and adenoids, curetting, etc., it is hardly worth while sending the patients so far as Manchester. Moreover on some occasions when such operative treatment has been advised, difficulty has been experienced in obtaining a 'recommend' for a local hospital, whereas by the Council subscribing to the Institution we should have the necessary 'recommends' on hand.

186lbs. of dried milk have been disposed of in addition to 2 gallons of Virol and 77 tins of condensed milk.

246 pints of fresh milk were provided gratis to necessitous cases.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District
Council of Oswaldtwistle.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting for your consideration my EIGHTH Annual Report and Statistics of the work done and actions taken in connection with the Sanitary Department of this Authority, for the year ended December 31st, 1918.

Periodical inspections have been made of the district as in previous years, with a view of ascertaining the general sanitary surroundings, and any nuisances discovered during such inspections have been brought before your notice where such have not been remedied, after verbal information to the owners have been given.

Summary of Work.

Visits and revisits to houses	...	...	753
Notices served	...	...	204
Letters „	...	...	94
Workshop inspections	...	...	10
Bakehouse „	...	...	25
Offensive Trades' Inspections	{ Bone boilers ... Tripe „ ... Fish fryers ...		217 9 14
Visits to Slaughterhouses	...	...	151
„ Cowsheds	...	...	98
Drains tested	...	...	21
Reports received,—principally obstructed waste water closets	...	...	254
Visits to infected houses	...	...	114
Smoke observations	...	...	0
Tents and vans inspected	...	...	12
Houses disinfected	...	...	153
Schools „	...	...	10

Disinfection in all cases of notifiable infectious diseases is carried out as efficiently as possible in the absence of a fever hospital. Cases are isolated, as far as we are able, in the premises in which they occur—always a difficult matter in cottage houses. Printed forms with the requisite precautions for each disease, and disinfectants, are supplied. At the end of the illness, the rooms are thoroughly disinfected with formic aldehyde and sulphur fumes, and the bedding sterilised by heat at the gasworks. Izal is used for disinfecting drains, etc.

Owners frequently ask to be advised with reference to alterations and repairs to sanitary conveniences and drains, where no notice has been served, so that they may comply with the Council's requirements.

Old Privies. Many old privies still exist in the district, and nuisances frequently occur from them, owing to the defects

generally found in the chambers: only three of these have been reconstructed to the waste water system, and there is still room for greater improvement, which has been held back owing to the difficulty in being able to obtain the necessary materials for this class of work.

Offensive Trades. We have in the district, other than fish fryers, five persons carrying on offensive trades: three are tripe boilers, and two bone boilers or tallow refiners.

Complaints have been made in regard to the liquid from the Nook Bone Works being discharged direct into the stream, this was enquired into and a report made to the Health Committee.

The plant and buildings at the works are being reconstructed, so as to provide for the carrying out of the trade under better conditions, both from a health and business point of view.

Fish Fryers. These premises numbering 11 at the beginning of the year were increased to 14, and visits paid regularly to them, but as materials were difficult to obtain, only a very small percentage of these fish fryers were able to carry out the manufacture of this ready-prepared food, although, as in other Lancashire manufacturing Towns, fish and chips are articles of diet consumed very largely by the working classes.

The bye-laws governing this trade provide the Inspector with better facilities in having this food prepared under hygienic conditions.

Disposal of Excrement. As in previous years, notices served in respect to the conversion of privies were for the installation of fresh water closets only, but as in the case of the property at Higher Heys and Brookside, the matter was considered by the Streets, Buildings, etc., Committee, who, after meeting the owners on the matter, decided to leave the work over until suitable materials could be obtained, although at the Health Committee meeting it was decided that the work should be proceeded with.

The contents of pails are collected weekly and emptied down the Council's sewer at Heys Yard, the latter being done at midnight so as to avoid any complaints of nuisance arising therefrom.

The numbers of the various types of receptacles in the district are as follows :—

Privy middens	...	...	328
Pails	...	...	392
Waste water closets	...	...	2451
Fresh „	...	...	339
Portable receptacles for refuse	...		228
Privies reconstructed to	{ fresh water closets		0
	{ waste „		3
	{ pails ...		0

The following particulars obtained from the Surveyor's report are in respect of refuse, etc., removed during the year :—

No. of loads of ashes removed	...	6051
„ excreta „	...	650
„ fish refuse „	...	59
„ street sweepings removed		863
„ trade refuse „		81

The sanitary conveniences at the various schools are fairly satisfactory with two exceptions, viz :—Saint Mary's R. C. School and Holy Trinity C. of E. School.

Tents, Vans, and Sheds. It is pleasing to report that very little or no complaints have been received, and also during my visits to the vans on Duncan Square have I found any serious reason for complaint. I think I may safely say that this state of affairs is attributed to the class of residents allowed to occupy this land.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops. The above have received careful attention during the year, and lime has been purchased by the Council to surmount the difficulty experienced in this material not being procurable only in 5 ton lots; the cowkeepers availing themselves of this opportunity.

No structural alterations were made, at our request, to any of the cowsheds, but there is still plenty of room for improvement in this respect.

We have on the register 74 cowkeepers, an increase of two over last year.

Slaughterhouses. There are two licensed premises in the district, in the occupation of Ann Duckworth and James Haworth, both of Union Road. During the greater part of the year, these and also the Council's premises have been used very little owing to the food orders requiring the meat supply to be distributed at the Central Dépôt, Accrington Abattoirs.

Food Inspection. During the year, it has been necessary to seize and destroy the following foodstuffs:—

90lbs. of beef, two sheep, and five pigs.

In conclusion, I desire to acknowledge the many acts of kindness extended to me during the year by the Health Committee and their Chairman, the Medical Officer of Health, and to all who have assisted me in endeavouring to improve the health of the inhabitants of the district, my thanks are due and extended.

A. ASHWORTH, C.R.S.I.,

Honours Certs., Plumbing, etc.

May 30th, 1919.

ANNUAL HEALTH VISITOR'S REPORT

For the year ended December, 1918.

IN reviewing the work of the past year, there is cause for much encouragement for steady progress made. War conditions have made it difficult to launch out in many fresh directions, but there has been a decided strengthening of the work in hand.

In visiting, 2489 calls were paid throughout the year, 226 were first visits. We have won the confidence of the mothers. In every case the advice proffered is welcomed, and often followed, and there is abundant testimony given that the Health Visitor's work is not in vain.

54 visits were paid during the ante-natal period. We have been in touch with 25 expectant mothers. There is some cause for encouragement in this direction. The barrier of reticence, so marked in the past, is in many cases overcome. We are anxious to influence mothers during this critical period, and a few have called seeking personal advice, whilst others have cheerfully attended the Centre for further help.

Cases of measles notified have been seen as often as necessary. 3 infants suffering from ophthalmia were attended daily till recovered.

35 meetings took place at the Infant Welfare Centre. The gatherings have been well attended, the total attendances being—adults 1032, infants and toddlers 719. The mothers prove responsive to the instruction given. Sympathy in this work has been shown by many friends. We are indebted to the following for addresses and demonstrations:

Dr. Peterson, Oswaldtwistle.
 Rev. J. Thornley, „
 Mr. Barnes, Sanitary Inspector,
 Bacup.
 Nurse Reid & Workers, Padiham.
 „ Meadowcroft, Clayton-le-
 Moors.
 Mrs. Haworth, Altham.
 Miss Nuttall, Accrington.
 Mrs. Ada Slack, „

Mrs. Barker, Accrington.
 Mrs. S. Cooper, Nelson.
 Mrs. Kennedy Gill, Church.
 Mrs. A. Ashworth, Oswaldtwistle
 Miss Skinner, „
 Miss Whittaker, „
 Miss Mc.Gregor, „
 Mrs. Cornthwaite, „
 Mrs. Harrison, „

The Health Visitor lectured on all other occasions.

Lectures have been on varied subjects, chiefly maternity, infant management, simple sanitation, general health, household care, and several demonstrations on cutting out and cookery.

During June, owing to unavoidable circumstances, we were removed from the Liberal Club to the Conservative Club. Here the work has gone on comfortably. The caretakers have shown much patience and consideration.

In making the change, the Committee thought it desirable to hold the meetings fortnightly instead of weekly. From this time we met on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

On the 12th of June we held our annual picnic, spending a happy day at Higher Hodder.

On the 22nd we took our part in the procession for a permanent memorial in the Township.

In July, Dr. Peterson undertook duty at the Centre, and we are indebted for many helpful lectures.

In September we formed a general Committee of voluntary helpers, Mrs. Harrison kindly consented to act as Secretary. This band of ladies have worked diligently from the start. With their help we organised an Operetta, a Flag Day, and a Jumble Sale, which helped the funds materially. Much of the success is due to their energy and faithful co-operation.

At Xmas-tide the annual treat was given, many friends helped generously. Abundant refreshments were provided, and Father Xmas distributed a toy for every child. A pleasing entertainment was given, and games enjoyed by all.

A meeting on Infant Welfare lines has been commenced at Knuzden. They ask that this may be continued periodically.

15 lectures have been given locally to the various schools and meetings in the neighbourhood. We welcome all such opportunities in spreading the knowledge of personal hygiene, and enlisting the sympathy of all women-folk in the fight for healthy infancy and child-hood.

Yours very sincerely,

F. Mc.KENDRY,

Cert. C.M.B., R.I.P.H.

OUNDLE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report
1918.

C. N. ELLIOTT, M.O.H.

OUNDLE

H. H. MARKHAM, PRINTER AND STATIONER.

When we come to consider the question of treatment, the real matter of interest to the patient, I am sorry to say I can find but little improvement from what it was 30 years ago. There is no known preventative, and no specific medicine. We know something of the *Bacillus* which is said to be the cause, but this knowledge has not given any practical result.

Certainly the worst outbreak I ever saw was in Elton during the summer of 1890. Hardly a house but had some sufferer, many of the labouring men being the most difficult to treat, as they seemed to be rendered incapable of making any effort to help themselves. I did not find this difficulty last year. The cases which escaped pneumonia seemed to recover fairly quickly, and there were few after complications.

The last epidemic really lasted about six weeks, and was practically gone by Christmas. All the schools had to be closed, with the single exception of Blatherwycke. I think it is a pity they were not all closed by a general order at the commencement.

Infectious diseases, other than influenza, may be summed up in a few words. Epidemics of measles were seen at Deene and Deenethorpe in April and May, in Winwick, Thurning and Barnwell in July and August, and in Cotterstock during December. The schools in every village named had to be closed.

A few cases of diphtheria occurred in Warmington during March, but the outbreak was checked by the prompt removal of the patients to hospital. There was only one case of scarlatina during the year, and one doubtful case of enteric fever.

A case of Actinomyosis was seen at Barnwell last Spring, proving fatal after a few months. The man worked on a farm at Armston, and as it is well known that this disease is contracted from cattle, I advised that the stock on this particular farm be examined by a Veterinary Surgeon, but was informed by your Clerk that we had no power enabling us to deal with the matter; in fact, the law does not seem to recognise this very serious disease in the case of human beings. It is the third we have seen in this district, all proving fatal. In this Barnwell case the owner, who was also the occupier, had the animals examined and I understand a bullock was found suffering from Actinomyosis and was destroyed.

The Housing Question has been carefully considered by your Council, and a list of insanitary dwellings has been made. It is proposed to build houses in Warmington, Lutton, and Kings Cliffe to provide for those condemned. Apart from this your Council did not consider there was any likelihood that any demand would arise.

I cannot myself see that there is any probability of any increase in the population of the district in the near future, and the Council do not want empty houses on their hands. I think the list of insanitary houses might be increased; there are certainly two at Pilton, and some very doubtful ones at Polebrook. I also believe that new houses would find tenants at Nassington, and Woodnewton. Land round the last-named village is very fertile, and more suited for market gardening than any other in the District, so there might be some chance there for the small-holder.

Yours faithfully,

C. N. ELLIOTT, M.B.

OUNDLÉ RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1918.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

SIR,—

I herewith present a report of the work done for the year 1918.

The District has been systematically visited throughout the year, and necessary steps have been taken to secure the abatement of all nuisances discovered.

The delay in getting the necessary work done which I reported last year, has continued, owing to the shortage of labour. This, however, I hope will now be removed, as we are returning to a normal condition.

During the year 265 nuisances have been dealt with, most of which have been abated. In no case was it necessary to issue a statutory notice, the work being done without bringing the matter before the Council.

Work in connection with the Housing Act has again been in abeyance. Several of the worst houses have been inspected with a view to a closing order being made.

Infectious Diseases.

The District has been fairly free from infectious diseases, other than influenza and measles. 11 cases were notified to me, including tuberculosis. All these were dealt with, the houses were disinfected, and the bedding removed to the disinfectory at the Hospital.

Sewage and Drainage.

A new sewer has been laid at Elton, in place of the old stone drain down the back way. This is a great improvement, as now the storm water can escape without flooding the lower part of the village. In most of the villages new sewers will have to be laid down to effectually deal with the drainage.

New Houses.

No building of any description has taken place, and several new houses are required before old ones can be closed.

Cow Sheds and Dairies.

These have been inspected, 53 visits having been made. One new cow-keeper has been registered.

Slaughter-houses.

157 visits have been paid to the slaughter-houses, which have been kept in a clean condition. A number of carcasses of meat have been condemned as unfit for food ; these, but for the shortage of meat, would never have come into the slaughter-house ; they were brought in on the off chance of being passed.

The following have been condemned as unfit for human food, and were surrendered :—

Beef	...	...	75 stones.
Mutton	...	...	117 stones.
Total	...	...	192 stones.

Workshops and Bakehouses.

These were all found to be kept clean, and no complaints have been made. 125 visits have been recorded.

Yours obediently,

SAMUEL BROADBELT.

